



# short @nd sweet

news | | |

Nr. 10

October 2007

Dear colleagues,  
Dear friends of our institute,

New studies, new concepts, a new professorship and new challenges.



This would be a possible way to further summarize the short news items which make up this issue of short @nd sweet.

A remarkable team of employees makes all the activities and developments described here possible, and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank-you to them for all their exceptional work and support.

In addition, our concentration will once again be focussed on three very important areas: firstly – teaching family medicine, secondly – quality promotion and patient safety, and thirdly – chronic care and medical care research.

But why not read on and find out more for yourself ....

Ferdinand M. Gerlach

## Prof. Gerlach appointed to the Health Advisory Council

On October 12, 2007, the membership of the new Advisory Council on the Assessment of Developments in the Health Care System was announced by the Federal Government in Berlin. In the process, Professor Gerlach was appointed to this most prestigious interdisciplinary commission of experts in the German health system.

[Further Information in German](#)

## New professorship at the Institute for General Practice

A new professorship has been created for Chronic Diseases and Medical Care Research at the Institute for General Practice of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main.

Chronic Diseases and the problems they cause represent one of the biggest challenges facing family practices and the health system as a whole. For our institute, the creation of a professorship in this particular field is a great chance to further strengthen the already existing research area "Chronic Care and Medical Care Research". We are convinced that there is a great need for further research in this field, and we are pleased to receive the recog-

nition of our work which the new professorship represents.

Position announcements in

"DIE ZEIT" [\[PDF\]](#) and  
"Deutsches Ärzteblatt" [\[PDF\]](#)

## Every-Error-Counts website revamped

With immediate effect, the error reporting and learning system for general practices ([www.jeder-fehler-zaehlt.de](http://www.jeder-fehler-zaehlt.de)) has a new and updated website with additional features, as well as an openly accessible error report database. The database also includes a search function, making it possible to search for specific errors.

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## Taking care of patients with chronic diseases

You can read the position paper bearing the same name which has been published by the German Society of General Practice and Family Medicine (DEGAM) [here](#).

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**Error research; Study on safety culture planned**[www.jeder-fehler-zaehlt.de](http://www.jeder-fehler-zaehlt.de)

The Institute for General Practice has been researching errors in general practice for more than five years now. A new study sponsored by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) will investigate the patient safety or "error" culture in family practices. The safety culture is largely responsible for how we deal with mistakes - whether we learn from them, or whether we prefer to ignore them. Thus, the way errors are dealt with determines how we take care of our patients.

In a first phase, we will examine how and whether it is possible to measure the "safety culture" in a practice. For this purpose, individual interviews and group discussions will be carried out. Furthermore, a survey of family practices is planned. Doctors and doctors' assistants may participate either as individuals or as a practice team. The study will begin in March 2008.

In a second phase, from 2009 onwards, a nationwide survey on safety culture will be conducted and a controlled study carried out to examine whether measures to improve the safety culture produce the desired results.

Are you interested? If so then why not get in touch with

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**Online registration now possible for students**

For the first time students were able to register online for practical training in general practice during the winter term. They were able to choose their teaching practice as well as the period during which the training should take place themselves and enter the data into a specially programmed reservation system. The cumbersome student allocation process "by hand" is thus no longer necessary, and students' preferences can be more effectively taken into account.

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[For further details see current ...](#)

**BMBF sponsors PRoMPT follow-up study**

The BMBF will sponsor the follow-up survey for patients participating in the PRoMPT-Study. Initial provisional results show: Depressive patients, who are called up once a month and systematically asked how they feel have fewer symptoms of depression

**PRoMPT**

after a year than patients belonging to a control group. Detailed results will be available in spring 2008.

All the practices that participated in the initial study have agreed to take part in the follow-up survey. We would like to express our gratitude to them for their support.

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[More about PRoMPT...](#)

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